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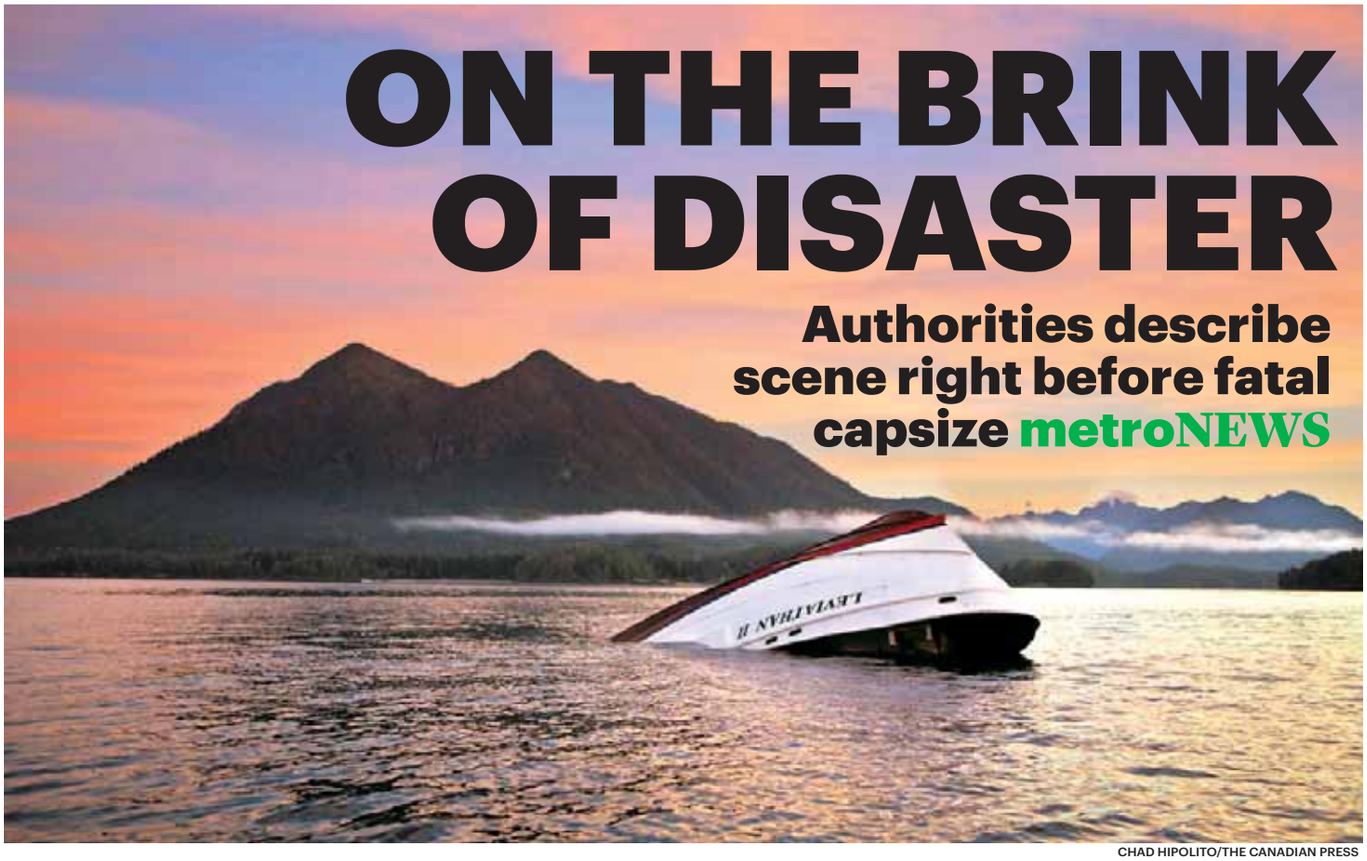
REFUGEE CRISIS, POST-ELECTION
metroNEWS



ON THE BRINK OF DISASTER

Authorities describe scene right before fatal capsize metroNEWS

CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

EXTRADITION

Charge dropped in Todd case

Dutch prosecutors have dropped a charge of creating child pornography against a man who is also accused of extortion and Internet luring in Canada related to the Amanda Todd case.

Aydin Coban's lawyer, Christian van Dijk, confirmed the charge had been dropped but said his client still faces charges of extortion and spreading pictures of naked victims.

"(There are) no charges connected to Amanda Todd, since there will be an extradition," he said in an email. Van Dijk said Coban still faces charges related to other people outside of the country. Prior to Todd's suicide, she posted a video about how she was lured by a man to expose herself during an online encounter. She was 15 when she died.

Neil MacKenzie, a spokesman for the B.C. Criminal Justice Branch, said the authority is proceeding with efforts to extradite Coban. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Your essential daily news

Lion populations in Central and West Africa see sharp decline. **World**

Giving back despite grief

FUNDRAISER

Boy's family helps others to also honour his legacy

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Christmas is a time of joy for many, but for a Langley mom, the holiday is also plagued with sorrow.

On Jan. 1, 2014, Chantal Blundell said goodbye to her six-year-old son Keian, who succumbed to a rare and aggressive cancer called T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, 18 months after he was diagnosed.

"With Christmas being Keian's favourite time of year, it's difficult for our family," she told Metro. "But we find that if we immerse ourselves with helping other families to help them feel the joy and everything that Keian wanted them to, then it actually helps us."

Starting this week until Dec. 11, the Blundell family and their supporters, who call themselves Team Keian, are hosting a fundraiser and toy drive in Keian's memory, where all donated toys will be distributed to sick kids at B.C. Children's Hospital and Canuck Place Children's Hospice on Christmas.

> **He taught us more at six years old than I've learned in my entire life.**
> Mom Chantal Blundell

On Nov. 21, they are also hosting a bottle drive at George Preston Recreation Centre in Langley to raise funds for families affected by childhood cancers. Last year, the team was successful in raising just over $4,000.

Chantal said it's important for her family to pay it forward and help other families going through the same struggle.

When Keian was diagnosed, husband Ryan was forced to take time off work to help care for their son. Eventually, they were forced to give up their home and eventually moved into a trailer in the hospital parkade. At the time, the family received more than $45,000 in donations from the community to help cover their living expenses.

Langley, B.C., mom Chantal Blundell with son Keian over Thanksgiving weekend in 2013, three months before the six-year-old succumbed to a rare and aggressive form of leukemia.
COURTESY BLUNDELL FAMILY

Focusing on giving back to others not only helps distract from their grief, but Chantal said it also helps honour her son's legacy. Even when he was at his sickest, she said Keian always put his illness aside in order to give back to others.

Two weeks before he died, she said Keian spent his last Christmas delivering more than 300 presents to other sick kids in hospital and at Canuck Place, a feat he had accomplished the previous year as well.

"He could barely wake up, but it was very important to him that he deliver the presents himself," she said. "He taught us more at six years old than I've learned in my entire life."

REPORT

B.C. can learn from Norway when it comes to electric vehicles

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

British Columbia has the highest per-capita electric vehicle sales rates in Canada but that pales in comparison on the success of EVs in Norway, according to a new report.

The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions — led by the University of Victoria in collaboration with Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia and the University of Northern British Columbia — this week released a discussion paper on what the province could learn from Norway's "electric vehicle revolution."

Here, the provincial government offers up to $5,000 for the purchase of a new battery electric, fuel cell electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle.

That's led to the sale of 2,413 electric vehicles in the province and a modest expansion of charging infrastructure as of September, said PICS executive director Tom Pedersen.

But the province can do much more if it follows Norway's lead, he said.

In Norway, there are more than 74,000 electric vehicles on the road and they account for more than 20 per cent of all new car sales.

The country also has about 5,600 public charging stations, compared to B.C.'s 600, despite its comparable populations, hydroelectric profile and mountainous and coastal geographies.

While Norway offers subsidies on sales (taxes are waived for new EV purchases), Pedersen said a slew of other incentives have made owning an electric vehicle a much more tempting proposition for Norwegians.

Drivers there are allowed to use bus and taxi lanes, don't have to pay for parking, pay no road tolls and are able to go on ferries for free.

"I think there is certainly an appetite in the public (for electric vehicles in B.C.)," said Pedersen. "But there are a couple things holding that back. The biggest challenge is range anxiety. We need to put in more charging capacity, and it's best to have one big whole program (from the province) and just do it."

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Vote will forever change city

COUNCIL

Future of two viaducts up for debate

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver city councillors were poised to make a historic and controversial decision to tear down the Georgia and Dunsmuir viaducts on Tuesday, a choice that would forever change the face of False Creek and its neighbours.

Council had not voted on the removal before Metro's deadline — however, Mayor Gregor Robertson spoke in favour of the removal and urged council to vote unanimously for tearing them down.

"We're at the edge of a really exciting opportunity," Robertson said, calling the viaducts "a relic of a failed transportation policy."

Over a two-day public meeting that extended late Tuesday night, planners argued the city has a once in a lifetime opportunity to tear down the 44-year-old elevated roadways, the start of a freeway system that was never completed.

If it goes forward, the overhaul will include a new at-grade road network that expands Pacific Boulevard to six lanes, a denser community of condos and office space and a 13-acre park.

Planners insisted developer contributions and land sales or leases of city property will cover the estimated cost. They anticipate pulling in at least $300 million from these sources, leaving $100 million to build amenities such as daycare or a school.

Although the viaducts could technically remain standing for a few decades, planners said it would cost upwards of $50 million to maintain them to the point where they wouldn't collapse in an earthquake.

But the jury's out on whether the multimillion-dollar demolition will transform the last vacant waterfront parcel into the city's crown jewel with parks and housing or lead to a blight of snarled traffic, gentrification and glass towers.

Opinion was split among more than 50 residents who spoke at council. Many members of the black community spoke in favour of the demolition, as it could enable recognition of the historical Hogan's Alley neighbourhood that was destroyed when the infrastructure was built. Councillors strongly supported the need to consult with the black community to create social and cultural facilities to replace those displaced when the viaducts were built.

Others residents worried that the new condo towers won't include housing for low-income residents, questioned if new towers will ruin views of the North Shore mountains and expressed disbelief that an at-grade roadway will be able to accommodate the traffic.

Green Party Coun. Adriane Carr echoed concerns about how much property owners stand to gain from the removal, calling it an "incredible gift to developers."

The exact amenity package has yet to be determined. If council approves removing the viaducts, it will be hammered out in negotiations with landowners including the Aquilinis, Pavco, the province and Concord Pacific, the developer that purchased the Expo '86 lands from the province in 1988 and owns the lion's share of the land.

Should council move forward, these negotiations will be complex, as Concord has agreed to pay the province once density on its site surpasses a certain level. The city hopes the province will give some of it back to the city for affordable housing.

If council approves the demolition, Concord stated it will file a rezoning application for its land imminently. Detailed planning is expected to take two years, with construction beginning in 2018. The entire neighbourhood is expected to be complete by 2025.

TRAFFIC

Zipping along the kilometre-long stretch without traffic lights will be a thing of the past. Yet city staff are confident the 45,000 cars that cross the viaducts daily will be accommodated in a new road network that includes an expanded Pacific Boulevard. There will be headaches during the two-year construction period beginning in 2018, but staff insist travel times will only be one to three minutes longer after construction is complete. The plan does, however, call for a new arterial on Malkin or National that the city doesn't have any funding for.

HOGAN'S ALLEY

The home of Vancouver's black community was levelled beginning in 1967 so the city could construct the viaducts. The roads displaced residents and scattered the community, where many African Canadians lived due to racial segregation and proximity to the railroads where many were employed. The neighbourhood was known for the African Methodist Episcopal Fountain Chapel, Vie's Chicken and Steak House and its most famous resident, Jimi Hendrix's grandmother Nora. The city promises to honour Hogan's Alley with some sort of community facility or art once the viaducts are removed.

What might happen after the viaducts vanish? Here are some of the major changes expected for Northeast False Creek and adjacent neighbourhoods if the elevated roadways are torn down and a new community is built over the next decade.

For results of the vote, visit metronews.ca

PARK

Twenty-seven years after Concord promised to build a park when it bought the Expo '86 lands from the province, the land is still a parking lot. Residents angry about the delay have installed green patio lights in protest and some unsuccessfully sued Concord. But grey will turn to green after Concord develops its last land parcel and moves soil that needs to be remediated to the future parkland. The viaducts removal will trigger this. A completed park is expected by 2024, but an upgraded seawall and a Georgia Wharf could be ready by 2020.

CONDOS

Concord Pacific — the developer behind the glass towers known around the world as Vancouverism — was going to build on this land whether or not council voted to demolish the viaducts. But their removal means it will get to build a community up to double the density previously allowed. In exchange, Concord is expected to pay in the realm of $148 million (a ballpark figure based on the similar sized Oakridge rezoning) in development and community amenity contributions. Expect the new, waterfront neighbourhood to look like False Creek North or Coal Harbour.

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Boat unbalanced: Investigator

LEVIATHAN II

Passengers, crowded on top deck, port side when wave hit starboard

Sightseeing passengers crowded the top deck of a whale-watching vessel when it was hit by a wave and then rolled, sending 27 people into the water off Vancouver Island's west coast, an investigator said.

On Tuesday, Marc-Andre Poisson, the director of marine investigations with the Transportation Safety Board (TSB), released preliminary results of Sunday's accident that claimed five lives. One passenger is still missing.

"We know that most passengers and crew were on the top deck on the port side.... This would have raised the centre of gravity, affecting the vessel's stability," he said during a news conference.

"We also know that the sea conditions were such that the wave approached the vessel from the starboard quarter," he said. "We know the vessel broached and then capsized."

All five people who died were British nationals. The missing man is from Australia.

Rupert Potter, the British consul general based in Vancouver, said earlier in the day the deaths are a tragedy that is resonating around the world.

"It has clearly deeply affected those involved," he said. "It's affected the community here in Tofino and it's affected people back in the U.K."

Potter shook hands with Premier Christy Clark and expressed his thanks for the support he and the victims' families have been receiving.

Potter said that while he has been in Tofino he has met with the relatives of those who died.

"Our focus is of course the families who have been affected and to provide whatever support we can to help them through this process," he said. "The bravery and courage they have shown through what is a difficult time, I find deeply moving."

Clark said she was horrified and heartbroken when she heard about the capsized boat but she's proud of the way British Columbians came together to help.

"The Ahousaht First Nation, the people of Tofino, the people who know this coast so well — when there was a crisis, when there were lives at risk, people stepped up and stepped in and saved lives," Clark said as she thanked the community.

An initial investigation suggests the passengers were not wearing life-jackets, said coroner Matt Brown.

"In terms of regulations, as I understand, (wearing life-jackets) is not required on this kind of vessel," Brown said. "Will that be part of an ongoing investigation? I'm certain it will be and it will be part of the interviews and investigation to follow."

Poisson said the TSB will try to recover the electronics on the vessel on Wednesday in an effort to help further the investigation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Christy Clark shakes hands with British consul general Rupert Potter following a news conference in Tofino on Tuesday. CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **In terms of regulations, as I understand, (wearing life-jackets) is not required on this kind of vessel.... It will be part of the interviews and investigation to follow.** Matt Brown, coroner

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TRICK-OR-TREATING

Drivers, be wary on Halloween: ICBC

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

It's a spooky statistic.

The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) says an average of 120 people are injured in vehicle collisions every Halloween night in British Columbia.

Making matters worse, this year possesses a volatile witch's brew of factors known to increase the likelihood of collisions: Halloween falls on a weekend, rain is in the forecast and Daylight Savings Time kicks in.

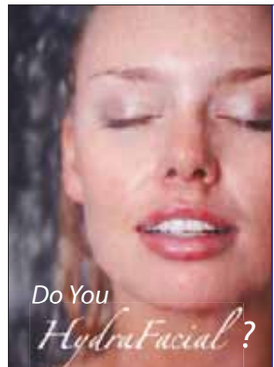
That's why the public insurer is reminding drivers (and trick-or-treaters) to stay safe, slow down and pay extra attention to their surroundings on Saturday, especially in residential neighbourhoods.

"Kids may have unexpected behaviours," said ICBC spokeswoman Joanna Linsangan. "You never know when someone could run out into the road, or may not expect to see kids walking in an alley or through a parking lot. All the more reason to slow down."

The 120 injuries each Halloween is based on a five-year average from 2009 to 2013, counting incidents in which at least one person has been injured or killed between 3 p.m. and 11:59 p.m.

The majority of those injuries occur in the Lower Mainland, where an average of 90 people are injured on the night of Oct. 31.

> **You never know when someone could run out into the road, or may not expect to see kids walking in an alley or through a parking lot.** Joanna Linsangan



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IN BRIEF

Trans Mountain NEB review challenged

A First Nation in North Vancouver is challenging the National Energy Board's review of the Trans Mountain pipeline.

Lawyers for the Tsleil-Waututh Nation are asking the Federal Court of Appeal to stop the review, which they say began without their client being consulted by the federal government.

The proposed project would include a second pipeline to transport crude oil from Alberta's oilsands to Kinder Morgan's terminal across the Burrard Inlet from Tsleil-Waututh land.

The First Nation is among various groups opposed to the project, citing environmental and public health risks and little benefit to the economy.

Kinder Morgan has said the project underwent "unprecedented" scrutiny inside and outside the formal review process and would add $18 billion to Canada's gross domestic product over 20 years.

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Logistics defy refugee vow

Each day this week, Metro is taking an in-depth look at some of the immediate items on prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau's to-do list. Today, we examine his promise to bring 25,000 government-sponsored Syrian refugees to Canada by year-end.

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Refugees who came from Croatia wait in the border town of Rigonce, Slovenia, on Tuesday. Many are seeking higher living standards away from conflict cross the Croatia-Slovenia border on their way into Europe. STIPE MAYIC/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES

When the Syrian refugee crisis seized the federal election campaign in early September, Justin Trudeau's proposal was arguably the most ambitious of the party leaders: He promised the Liberals would bring 25,000 government-sponsored Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of the year.

Refugee experts and advocates now say while that target is laudable, resettling them all by the end of the year would be logistically difficult.

"We don't think the government should get too hung up on making sure that it happens by the end of the year," said Janet Dench, executive director of the Canadian Council for Refugees. "It's better to take a few extra weeks and get it right than to rush just to meet an arbitrary deadline."

The Syrian conflict has displaced 11 million people since 2011, 4 million of which have fled beyond Syria's borders.

Trudeau PROMISES TRACKER

PART III

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, upon which Canada relies for refugee referrals, is overwhelmed by applications and hasn't been able to refer refugees to Canada in significant numbers.

Once refugees are referred to Canadian authorities, they have to go through criminal, medical and security checks.

Then there's the matter of actually bringing them here.

Transportation arrangements, reception, accommodations, English or French lessons, bank accounts — all this work is done through the co-ordination of various levels of government, non-government organizations and community groups.

Upping Canada's intake can be done faster, but it shouldn't be rushed to meet a year-end deadline, experts said.

"We have really expert people on the ground that can do all this, but they need some lead time," said Naomi Alboim, chair of the Policy Forum at Queen's University's School of Policy Studies, and a former Ontario deputy minister of immigration. "A matter of weeks is not sufficient lead time to turn an operation like this on a dime."

Alboim helped oversee Canada's resettlement of Indochinese boat people over two years in 1979 and 1980. That well co-ordinated effort saw Canada take in 60,000 people over two years.

The Syrian crisis presents new challenges. For example, the Indochinese refugees were mostly in camps. But most Syrian refugees aren't in camps and are thus harder to find and process.

"The Syrians are living in fields and barns and basements, and there's no organizational infrastructure for the refugees, and some environments are not terribly secure," Alboim said. "A visa officer can't walk down the street and say, 'Any Syrian refugees want to come to Canada? Line up here.'"

The Canadian Council for Refugees, in an open letter to Trudeau, recommended he convene a national meeting involving all orders of government and other groups to plan Canada's resettlement of Syrian refugees. It also asked him to introduce flexible measures, such as temporary resident permits, for Syrians with family already in Canada.

Instead of processing them overseas, "it's basically an evacuation program. You just bring them to Canada and you do the processing here if they wish to apply for permanent residence," Dench said.

Measures the Conservative government took during the campaign will also make a difference. Syrians and Iraqis fleeing conflict no longer have to prove they're refugees under UN rules, but will be presumed to be refugees by Canadian authorities.

"That will expedite the process very significantly," Alboim said.

She added that Canada has also increased the number of visa officers in Beirut to 15 and has appointed two well-respected, veteran bureaucrats to co-ordinate the process in the civil service.

No one is suggesting we should put aside security in order to (bring in refugees).

Prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau, in Halifax in September

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

'Legend' Ken Taylor lauded at memorial

Family, friends and dignitaries that included prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau and one of his predecessors, Joe Clark, paid tribute Tuesday to Ken Taylor, Canada's former ambassador to Iran who garnered international fame for helping six Americans escape the country during the 1979 hostage crisis.

The ceremony, kept light in accordance with Taylor's wishes, heard him described as a fun-loving, generous man with a taste for fine brandy and fierce loyalty to his friends.

"My grandfather was simply a legend," granddaughter Kassia told those gathered in the large midtown Timothy Eaton Memorial Church.

Taylor, 81, died on Oct. 15 in New York after being diagnosed in August with colon cancer, his wife Pat by his side.

Clark, who authorized the November 1979 mission that saved the Americans from an Iranian mob that had stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran, said Taylor's courage earned the admiration of people around the world.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pat Taylor, Ken Taylor's widow, speaks at the funeral of the former diplomat in Toronto. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALBERTA

NDP reveals budget, $36B debt by 2018

Alberta's NDP government will forge ahead building schools and hospitals and hiring more teachers and nurses, but the devastating impact of low oil prices has it planning to borrow money just to keep the lights on.

There's money earmarked in Tuesday's provincial budget to reduce school fees, start a school nutrition program and deliver a new child benefit for low-income families.

There's also cash to provide employers with grants of up to $5,000 for each new job created over the next two years and an extra $1.5 billion to improve access to capital for small- and medium-sized businesses.

Much of the spending is being underwritten by record debt, which is pegged to reach $36.6 billion by 2018. And starting next year, the province plans to borrow money to pay not just for capital projects as it has in the past, but for day-to-day programs as well.

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Rescuers, relief workers head for quake-hit zones

AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN

Responders go on foot to most remote areas as toll rises

As the death toll in the massive earthquake that struck the remote Hindu Kush mountains soared above 300, officials on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistan border warned on Tuesday that casualty figures will likely leap once relief workers return from villages so remote they can only be accessed on foot or by donkey.

Rescuers in both countries were struggling to reach quake-stricken regions as officials said the combined death toll from Monday's earthquake rose to 376.

Authorities said 258 people died in Pakistan and 115 in Afghanistan in the magnitude-7.5 quake, which was centred in Afghanistan's sparsely populated Badakhshan province that borders Pakistan, Tajikistan and China. Three people died on the Indian side of the disputed region of Kashmir.

The earthquake, with its epicentre close to the Badakhshan district of Jarm, damaged many of the few existing roads, officials said. Dropping aid by air will be the only way to reach many of the needy, but those operations were not likely to start for many days until survey teams on foot return and report on the damage.

The Pakistani town closest to the epicentre is Chitral. Monday's quake shook buildings in the capital, Islamabad, and cities elsewhere in Pakistan and Afghanistan for up to 45 seconds in the early afternoon, creating cracks in walls and causing blackouts. The earthquake destroyed more than 7,600 homes across Afghanistan and injured 558 people. Badakhshan Gov. Shah Waliullah Adeeb said more than 1,500 houses there were either destroyed or partially destroyed.

Food and other essentials were ready to go, he said, but "getting there is not easy." Many people were sleeping outdoors, braving freezing temperatures for fear of aftershocks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Syrian mother hugs her children after arriving in Greece. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA CRISIS

Give aid now: UN

The United Nations said Tuesday the conflict in Syria has left 13.5 million people in need of aid and protection, including more than six million children.

UN humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien told the Security Council that represents an increase of 1.2 million people in just 10 months. He said there are some 6.5 million people displaced inside Syria, including well over 1.2 million so far this year and over 120,000 who have fled their homes in the country's north since early October, and 4.2 million Syrians have fled the country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Deer walks into hospital ER after being hit by a car

A deer apparently hit by a car brought itself to a Rochester, N.Y. hospital. The deer walked through the automatic doors at the entrance to Strong Memorial Hospital's emergency room late Monday afternoon and made it 20 feet down a corridor before being corralled. Two sheriff's deputies helped hospital staff strap the deer to a gurney and wheeled it out to the parking lot. One of the deputies put down the deer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police stop hearse, find coffin full of caviar

Police in Russia's far east stopped a speeding hearse — to find half a ton of caviar stashed inside, hidden under the wreaths lying next to a casket and inside the otherwise empty casket. The driver and his partner told police they'd been hired by a man allegedly to take the casket with the body of a female relative to a city morgue. Police are considering charges for illegal production and distribution of caviar, which is strictly regulated in Russia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Witch charges warlock with harassment in court case

Lori Sforza, 75, who runs a Salem, Mass., witchcraft shop and leads a pagan church, filed for court-ordered protection against harassment from former business partner Christian Day, 45, whose website calls him the "world's best-known warlock." Sforza accused Day of harassing her online and by phone. A judge is scheduled to hear the case Wednesday to decide whether Sforza's allegations amount to harassment and if she needs court protection. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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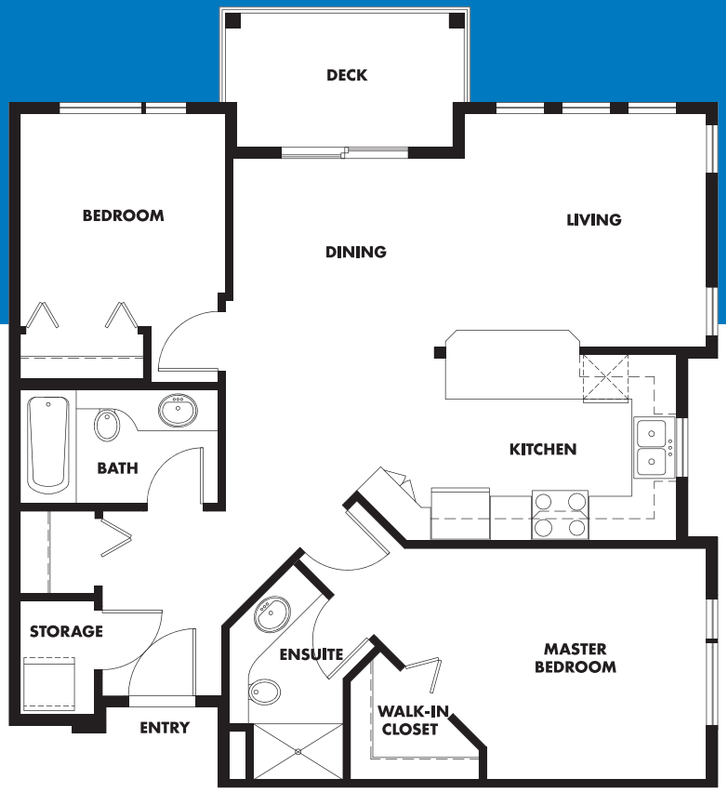

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Brand is expected to stick to its Roots

RETAIL

Strong ties to Canada good for company, observer says

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Roots co-founders with their new partners at the flagship store in Toronto: from left, Roots co-founder Michael Budman, Searchlight co-founders Erol Uzumeri and Eric Zinterhofer, and Roots co-founder Don Green. CNW GROUP/ROOTS CANADA LTD.

The sale of a majority stake in Toronto-based Roots Canada to an international private equity firm will help spread Canadiana around the world, one expert says.

David Soberman, a marketing professor at University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, said Roots has become associated with Canadian Olympic gear. But, otherwise, it's been very dormant.

"One of the things that brands need to do is create excitement from time to time," Soberman said.

The acquisition by Searchlight Capital is expected to help create that excitement. Exactly how that will happen remains to be seen. Officials with Roots declined interviews Tuesday, the day after the sale was announced.

But having the brand squarely associated with Canada works in the company's favour, Soberman said.

"Canada's image worldwide is pretty good," he said. "We're non-threatening and seen as welcoming, these are positives, and we have this image of being quite natural and wildlife and all that — those are things that people like."

Even though Searchlight Capital is an international company, Roots will remain based here and its brand is expected to remain much the same.

BORDER SECURITY

Sneaky snowbirds to get wings clipped

Snowbirds beware: The federal government will use its planned border exit-tracking system to avoid paying hundreds of millions of dollars in social benefits now going to people who shouldn't receive them due to absences from Canada.

Newly obtained memos say the Canada Revenue Agency and Employment and Social Development Canada expect to save between about $194 million and $319 million over five years once the long-anticipated system is fully in place.

Under the 2011 perimeter security pact, Canada and the United States agreed to set up co-ordinated systems to track entry and exit information.

The first two phases were limited to foreign nationals and permanent residents, but not citizens of either country.

The initiative was to be expanded by June 30 of last year to include information-sharing on all travellers crossing the land border.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

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DOW JONES: 17,581.43 (-41.62)

IN BRIEF

Tim Hortons' profit grows
New menu items at Tim Hortons — like the grilled breakfast wrap and Creamy Chocolate Chill — gave its owner an extra boost in the third quarter. Restaurant Brands International, owner of both Tim Hortons and Burger King, reported Tuesday that its profit grew to $49.6 million US in the period. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
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Wednesday, October 28, 2015

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

My cubicle is beside a co-worker I really like. But he has really bad B.O. It has been worse lately because his fiancée broke up with him. He smells like he has not showered for a while. Should I say something?

Ani Castillo

Dear Ellen,

I work in an office. My cubicle is right beside a co-worker who I really like and think of as a valuable work friend, but he has very bad B.O. It has been worse lately because his fiancée broke up with him. He smells like he has not showered for a while. He also smells like he is smoking and drinking a lot. And he even has a bad cat smell on him, like he got sprayed by a tomcat or something. Seriously, one day my eyes were actually stinging and I had to keep getting up and pretend to get coffee, etc.

Should I say something to him?

Raya, Calgary

Dear Raya,

Strictly speaking, it is not good manners to tell a co-worker that they literally stink. But if you're working with someone who reeks of rancid perfume or who repeatedly skips showering after a hard workout at the gym, you are perfectly entitled to speak up. If they are reasonable individuals who respect their co-workers, they probably don't even realize they're giving offence, and all it will take is a private, tactful word to solve the problem. If, on the other hand, they are arrogant, boorish idiots who don't care how offensively smelly they are, you can take the problem to human resources or a manager and hope that works.

In a case as extreme as this one, however, either approach might be dangerous — for you as well as your co-worker. Judging by your description, romantic rejection has pushed him close to the edge. If he feels attacked by HR or a manager about his personal hygiene, it could send him right over it.

And if he's bearing any repressed anger toward his ex, no amount of tact on your part is going to make criticism of his current state acceptable. Think about it: He's falling apart because one woman seems to have deemed him subpar as a life mate. Now he's at work, perhaps the last place he feels safe, and another woman walks up and deems him subpar as a workmate.

This doesn't mean you have to suffer in silence. It just means you have to find another way to deal with it.

The first step is to blame the cat. If your eyes are stinging, and you give them a little rub so they look even redder, and if you can manage a stifled sneeze or two, you can tell your friend you have a severe cat allergy. Usually it's not a problem (you can explain), but maybe lately his naughty cat has been sleeping on his clothes and leaving a lot of dander that now seems to be floating around the office? It's more likely your friend is passing out drunk and fully clothed each night in the filthy, hairy cat bed, then coming to work in the same outfit, but you don't need him to admit this. Your question just needs to remind him what's happening, and this may be enough to inspire him to start changing his clothes once in a while, which is a good start to the odour problem.

Admittedly, this step will be a little tricky if you own one or more cats yourself, and you have pictures of them all over your desk. But the fact is, some breeds are worse than others when it comes to dander, so it's worth a try.

The second step is to address your friend's mental state rather than his physical state. Rather than comment on his appearance or avoid him altogether, take him out for a coffee and tell him he's seeming a bit rough these days psychologically. Ask how he's coping with the breakup, and tell him you're always there if he wants to talk.

It may take a bit of effort, but sometimes good manners do. And if your support can pull him out of his downward spiral and eventually get him to take a shower, it'll be a win-win for you both.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
metro*view*

Thanks to Ai Weiwei, Lego can't build a politics-proof brand

You know it as a synonym for your childhood.

Now, consider Lego: enemy of Ai Weiwei.

The star Chinese artist has never been one to go gently. And despite accusations he's softened his stance on the Communist government (he said they now have "a basis of trust" after authorities dropped his travel ban), Ai is going hard on the maker of colourful building blocks.

And for Lego, it's lose-lose.

In September, the company refused to sell an Australian museum a bulk order of Lego — Ai's chosen material for an upcoming show.

Lego's reason, according to Ai and later confirmed by a spokesman: "They cannot approve the use of Legos for political works."

That alone doesn't seem to have sparked the artist's outrage. Ai only posted about the put-down after the announcement of a Legoland amusement park to be built in Shanghai. He accused Lego of censorship and discrimination. He drew connections to its corporate interests in China, and its refusal to help the country's most famous dissident.

And Ai's fans — a bona fide international force — responded. They're donating Lego in Beijing, Melbourne and Berlin. Ai has "decided to make a new work to defend freedom of speech and 'political art,'" he wrote on Instagram.

Lego has been taking heat on Twitter, and offered a contradictory and unconvincing response: "We respect everyone's right to creative expression, we don't censor, prohibit/ban creative use of LEGO bricks." Anyone can buy as many bricks as they want, the company wrote, "We just can't offer direct bulk purchases to facilitate such projects. We hope this helps to explain things!"

Despite the "!" — no, Lego, it doesn't. "Just can't" isn't a lucid corporate policy — it's teenage speak for "don't wanna." And as Ai pointed out, the refusal gives plastic blocks far too much credit.

Lego reportedly pleased China (a lucrative market), earning praise from state-run media. But that doesn't make this a Lego win.

With his godlike pop-culture status, his global reach and compulsive use of Twitter and Instagram, Ai, himself is a force to be reckoned with. He could damage the innocence of Lego's brand. Chinese authorities make or break a Legoland project in Shanghai, but Ai's influence spans the globe. Everything that touches him turns political. And no one and nothing that touches him can stay out of it.

"The Internet is like my canvas," he told the New York Times. And whether Lego likes it or not, Ai will use its toys, and take to its brand with his brush.

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The sandwich that saved my life

NEW COOKBOOK

Ruth Reichl's generous take on the classic grilled cheese

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Recipes, to Ruth Reichl, are conversations, not lectures. A good cookbook "is one that has voice." A great cookbook is "one that makes you want to cook."

Here's the curious catch. Reichl, the much-loved former restaurant critic who ran Gourmet magazine until it was abruptly shut down, doesn't like how our fascination with chefs has made us feel intimidated in the kitchen.

"I feel strongly that we've terrified people out of cooking," she declares. We've turned cooking into a performance, but "if you've enjoyed yourself in the kitchen, you haven't failed."

On the second page of her new book, My Kitchen Year: 136 Recipes That Saved My Life, Reichl owns the truth that her knife skills are pathetic.

In Toronto to promote the book last week, she visited the Torstar test kitchen and asked to make The Diva of Grilled Cheese, a recipe full of alliums that must be finely chopped.

And chop them she did, thoughtfully, without swagger. Green onions. White onions. Red onions. Leeks. She's hardly pathetic, but she's no chef.

Reichl considers three loaves of sourdough bread — one uncut and from a bakery, two from the supermarket and cut to different thicknesses. She wants to work with all three.

"See? I can't even slice bread," she muses when the too-fresh loaf gives her trouble.

Presented with four white cheddar cheeses, she nibbles away and picks a two-year-old one from Quebec

"Any cheese will actually do," she graciously allows, before tasting a fifth option — Balderson's smoked cheddar. It's new to her and something she's keen to experiment with, mindful that "it could be awful."

In her upstate New York country home, she cooks to music, usually the Blues, or sometimes to an audio book. Cooking is a meditation that centres her.

Reichl is 67. Those who've followed her story will want to know that her television news producer husband Michael Singer is 75 and working on a documentary. Their current cats are named ZaZa and Cielo. Their son Nick, 26, is studying film at grad school and living in their Upper West Side apartment.

When you think of Reichl now, you most likely remember that moment in October 2009 when you heard that Condé Nast was closing Gourmet magazine immediately.

It was even more shocking for Reichl. She was in Seattle promoting the Gourmet Today cookbook when she was recalled to New York for an urgent meeting. She didn't see it coming.

She lost her decade-long job as editor-in-chief along with her identity and sense of purpose.

She had previously spent more than two decades as restaurant critic, namely for the Los Angeles Times and New York Times. She was 61.

Engulfed by feelings of failure, fear and inadequacy, she entered "the land of grief."

She had nowhere to go, so she went to the kitchen and opened the fridge. Cooking became her lifeline. She found a community on Twitter, where she is known for her haiku-like tweets.

Six months after Gourmet's abrupt closure, at a reunion meal, the former travel editor Bill Sertl asked how she was faring without an expense account.

It dawned on Reichl that after 32 years eating out on expense accounts, she was happier in the kitchen than in fancy restaurants. Maybe, Sertl suggested, she should write a cookbook.

She lovingly calls My Kitchen Year her "accidental cookbook."

Reichl did turn her recipes over to a tester, who measured everything. But she chose to leave many of the details out to give people permission to make the recipes their own.

Here's a surprise twist — she hates writing.

"I do. I do," she admits. "I don't know very many writers that don't. I hate writing. I love cooking."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RECIPE

The Diva of Grilled Cheese

Ingredients

- Your choice of several alliums (shallots, leeks, green onions, red/yellow/white/sweet onions)
- 1 small clove garlic, minced
- 3-3/4 cups (925 mL) loosely packed, grated cheddar cheese
- 6 slices (1/2-inch/1-cm thick) sourdough bread
- Unsalted butter, at room temperature
- Mayonnaise

Directions

Gather your alliums and finely chop into small heap on large cutting board. You need about 1 cup (250 mL). Add garlic and 3 cups (750 mL) cheddar. Toss gently to combine. Butter 1 side of each bread slice right to edges. Heap cheesy onion mixture on top of 3 slices, butter sides facing in. Pat mixture firmly but leave in a generous mound. Top each portion with second slice bread, butter side facing in.

Spread thin layer mayo on outside of sandwich to help prevent scorching.

Press 1/4 cup (60 mL) grated cheddar on outside of each sandwich.

Heat non-stick griddle over 350F (180C) or large, non-stick skillet over medium.

Add sandwiches. Cook about 4 minutes per side.

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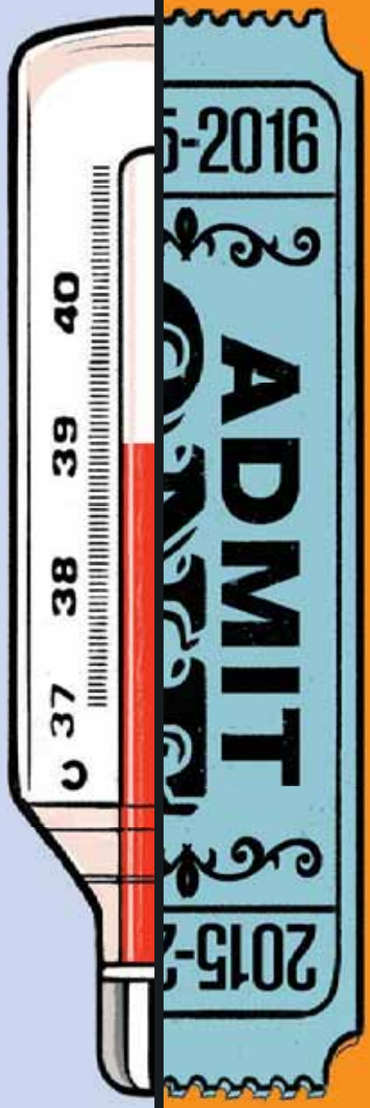

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Rose Reisman EAT THIS

You know you're going to eat fast, so next time choose this not that

THIS WEEK: Pizza Pizza

Is there any type of food more beloved than Italian-inspired? With basic ingredients including tomato sauce and cheese, how can you go wrong? Pizza Pizza is a popular option for Canadians, with over 28 million pizza orders a year. Italian-inspired food fans will also love the classic panzerotti, a mouth-watering variation — think of an entire enclosed pizza stuffed with cheese, pepperoni and sauce. While a panzerotti may just seem like a pizza rolled up, it packs a lot more onto your waistline.

PICK THIS

Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza (2 slices)

Calories 480
Fat 16 g
Saturated fats 8 g
Sodium 1100 mg
Carbohydrates 66 g
Cholesterol 60 mg
Sodium 1100 mg

SKIP THIS

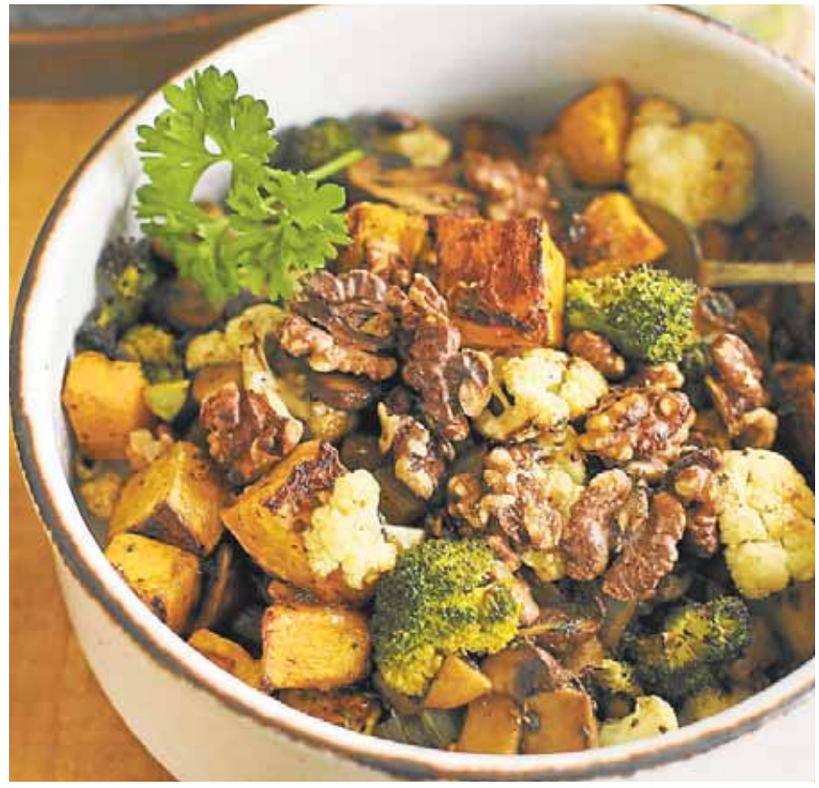
Cheese and Pepperoni Panzerotti

Calories 1160
Fat 40 g
Saturated fats 20 g
Carbohydrates 138 g
Cholesterol 120 mg
Sodium 2340 mg

HERE'S WHY

The fat equivalent of four servings of Penne Bolognese

While both items are made of dough, tomato sauce, pepperoni and cheese, the panzerotti is close to double the weight. The stats suggest only eating half a panzerotti, but as you are served a whole one, you'll most likely devour the entire thing! So that's double the dough, cheese and pepperoni. You're getting half your daily calories and fat and more than a day's worth of sodium. You could eat the equivalent of four servings of Penne Bolognese in fat. Mamma Mia!



The caramelization process adds sweetness and the acidity from a Granny Smith apple adds depth to these mixed vegetables. MATTHEW MEAD/AP PHOTO

LIQUID ASSETS

Pumpkin: Not just for lattes

Peter Rockwell
For Metro Canada

If you're a coffee fan you don't need a calendar; all you have to do is check out the chalkboard at your local café, or big box bean grinder, for the announcement that both fall, and pumpkin spice lattes, have arrived.

Think baristas are out of their gourd mixing pumpkin meat with their brew? Beer makers across Canada are doing the same. Just walk the craft beer aisles of your local liquor store.

Liqueur producers, who have never met a flavouring agent they couldn't work with, are also piecing together tipples with output from the veggie patch.

Starting with its original recipe of rum and Mexican-grown coffee beans, Kahlúa's Limited Edition Pumpkin Spice Liqueur ($14.99-$16.95) gets its autumn flavours on by adding pumpkin and other seasonal ingredients to the blend.

Drinking much like you would expect, it's a tasty way to add some punch to a martini or, if you're dressing-up as The Dude from The Big Lebowski this Halloween, your obligatory White Russian.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

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The healthy plate: Veggie oven hash

HOME COOKING

This vegan and gluten-free dish is filling and delicious

As we head into crisper weather, there are classic dishes that beg to be made this time of year. One favourite is a roasted vegetables — a dish that's tasty, and full of nutrients, too.

Use a mix of roasted vegetables for a caramelized sweetness that feels toasty and homey. Add meaty mushrooms sautéed in garlic and the trifecta of cooking herbs: rosemary, sage and thyme. A Granny Smith apple cut into tiny cubes brings just enough acid for depth, while toasted walnuts add texture, along with some nice healthy fats to fill up vegetarians. Your vegan or gluten-free eaters will feel sated.

VEGGIE OVEN HASH, BY MELISSA D'ARABIAN

Start to finish: 40 minutes
Servings: 8

- 2 1/2 cups (3/4 pound) cubed butternut squash (1-inch cubes)
- Olive oil
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 2 cups (1/3 pound) small cauliflower florets
- 2 cups (1/3 pound) small broccoli florets
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 8 ounces cremini mushrooms, sliced (cut in half if slices are larger than bite-sized)
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and diced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
- 1 tablespoon minced sage
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup toasted walnuts, roughly chopped

Heat the oven to 400 F. Line two rimmed baking sheets with kitchen parchment or foil.

Mound the squash on one of the prepared baking sheets then drizzle with about 1 teaspoon of oil. Toss to coat, then season with salt and pepper. Arrange in an even layer, then roast until tender, 30 to 35 minutes, turning once or twice.

While the squash is roasting, mound the cauliflower and broccoli on the second sheet. Drizzle them with 2 teaspoons of oil, season with salt and pepper, then arrange in an even layer and roast for 25 minutes, turning halfway through, or until the cauliflower is golden. All of the vegetables should finish roasting around the same time. Set aside to cool.

Meanwhile, in a large pan over medium, heat 1 tablespoon of oil. Add the onion and celery and cook until translucent, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and mushrooms, then sautee until the mushrooms are starting to get tender, about 7 minutes. Add the apple, thyme, rosemary and sage, then cook another 5 minutes, or until the mushrooms are tender (but not floppy).

Stir in the lemon juice, remove from the heat and transfer to a large bowl.

Add the slightly cooled roasted vegetables and the toasted walnuts. Stir and adjust seasoning if needed.

Food Network star Melissa d'Arabian is an expert on healthy eating on a budget. She is the author of the cookbook, Supermarket Healthy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smart party tips for the Halloween-ing adult

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Take health scares out of Halloween with these tips

Eva Kis
Metro | New York

The clocks turn back one hour on the night of Halloween, which may impact your party choices — for better or for worse. ISTOCK

Halloween night's scares should all be in good fun. We've got the ingredients for making the celebration a little less frightful.

Keep an eye on the clock

Daylight Saving Time ends at 1 a.m. on Nov. 1, which seems like a good thing — an extra hour on the hardest partying night of the year is the best treat, right?

Maybe. It's easy to let the night take you where it wants, but you could end up getting sick from drinking longer than normal, or being tired enough to fall asleep on your way home on the subway, bus or cab.

While you do have Sunday to sleep off bad decisions, Monday morning will be a lot less cruel if you turn down at your usual 3 a.m., rather than when the clock says it's 3 a.m.

Rethink trick-or-treating

You don't have to give up Halloween's most hallowed tradition. If going to a club or other big event isn't your speed, organize your own party. The cocktails are easy — a little cranberry juice and anything is bloody; swap the tequila for mezcal and you've got instant smoke and spice; and instead of setting out bowls of candy, ask everyone to bring a home-baked treat.

Set up all the pans and plates on various tables and surfaces around your home, and you've got adult trick-or-treating.

Be careful with coloured contacts

Don't make a decision on Halloween that you could regret forever.

A recent study out of Japan found that several brands of non-prescription costume contacts contained chlorine and other harmful chemicals, likely from the dyes used on the lenses.

Contacts that don't fit your eyes can also scratch the cornea, which can cause infection and blindness.

Get a prescription from an ophthalmologist, or find a different accessory.

Get home safely

If you're walking home and feel unsafe but can't rely on calling someone, there's an app that will let a friend virtually walk with you.

Tell the Companion app (free, iOS and Android) your destination, and it can ping one of your contacts and send them a link to track you on a map.

If anything happens — you make a wrong turn, start running or the headphones are pulled out of the jack — the app turns the phone into a personal alarm system with loud sounds to scare off criminals and can even call 911.

The person at the other end of the app also gets an alert.

WORD OF MOUTH

Well-rounded diet is key, as always

A diet high in vegetables is important for your health. ISTOCK

Theresa Albert
For Metro Canada

You knew it was coming: the news that bacon is carcinogenic along with its processed meat brethren of deli meats, smoked meats and hot dogs.

This week, the World Health Organization rocked your lunch world by placing processed meats in the highest carcinogen category (where cigarettes and asbestos reside) and cooked red meat in the second-highest (probable carcinogen) category.

Let's just be clear, this is not news. It is the confirmation of widely suspected information based upon the latest gathering of scientists with research to share with the endorsement of the respected World Health Organization.

Nothing has changed. The information is telling you that consuming these foods puts you at increased risk of cancers particularly of the colon. It does not say that biting into that sandwich will cause cancer.

To reduce your risk you (still) need to:

- Eat mostly vegetables.
- Consume high vitamin C fruits and vegetables with any smoked, cured, processed or cooked meat to mitigate the risk.
- If you are going to enjoy processed meats, you need to choose the best in class with the highest quality, lowest sugar, lowest salt amounts. One or two slices will be better (on many levels beyond carcinogenic concerns) than a sky high pile.
- If you are going to consume red meats (which this recommendation assessed as beef, mutton, pork, lamb, horse or goat), use low temperature, braised or stewed methods of cooking. High temperature direct pan frying or grilling creates more carcinogens.
- Reduce your overall amount of meat as low as possible. There are still protein, B vitamin and zinc nutrients that are beneficial and difficult to obtain elsewhere.

Theresa is an on-camera food and health expert, nutritionist and writer who loves to spread the word on food

CHOCOLATE

Baked, flavoured Kit Kats? Give me a break

Trick-or-treating may not be a widespread practice in Japan, though it's not for lack of tooth-rotting sweets.

Just in time for Halloween, Nestle has introduced bite-sized versions of some of its unusual varieties of Japanese Kit Kat bars, including sweet potato and pumpkin pudding.

The flavours are strange, sure — though Kit Kat has also produced apple, edamame and wasabi versions. But what's intriguing is that you're encouraged to bake these bars before eating. That's right, a baked chocolate bar.

An instructional video on YouTube is not especially helpful. Kit Kat's "Chef Patissiere" Yasumasa Takagi advises viewers to spread out the bars on aluminum foil and put them in a toaster oven for about two minutes, "without preheat." He makes it look so easy. But he doesn't specify the temperature (at least the subtitles don't), so some trial and error is required. Mostly error.

Sanko suggests refrigerating the bars beforehand so they'll stay cool inside, hot outside. But this method melted the bars into goopy white-chocolate puddles.

Members of Torstar News Service's taste pannel were fed these "undercooked" bars and were sufficiently turned off.

In a second attempt at scruptious-sounding baked Kit Kats, a batch of bars was broiled.

The technique still produced large white puddles but this time the tops of the bars blistered nicely, taking on more of a baked flavour.

A third and final attempt was the best, though still frustratingly imperfect. The toaster oven was preheated to 350 F (ignoring chef's instructions not to preheat) before inserting the tray of Kit Kats. The bars stayed in just long enough for the tops to turn brown but not burn. The puddles were still there, but smaller now.

The taste was a definite improvement over the cold, sweet bars, turning them into something resembling crunchy, fresh-baked cookies — though not quite as satisfying as that sounds. And while the pumpkin pudding-flavoured bars do offer a hint of pumpkin flavour, there were no discernible sweet potato notes in the other batch, whether we sampled it hot or cold.

The overwhelming taste is cloying sweetness, which only a dose of wasabi could cut.

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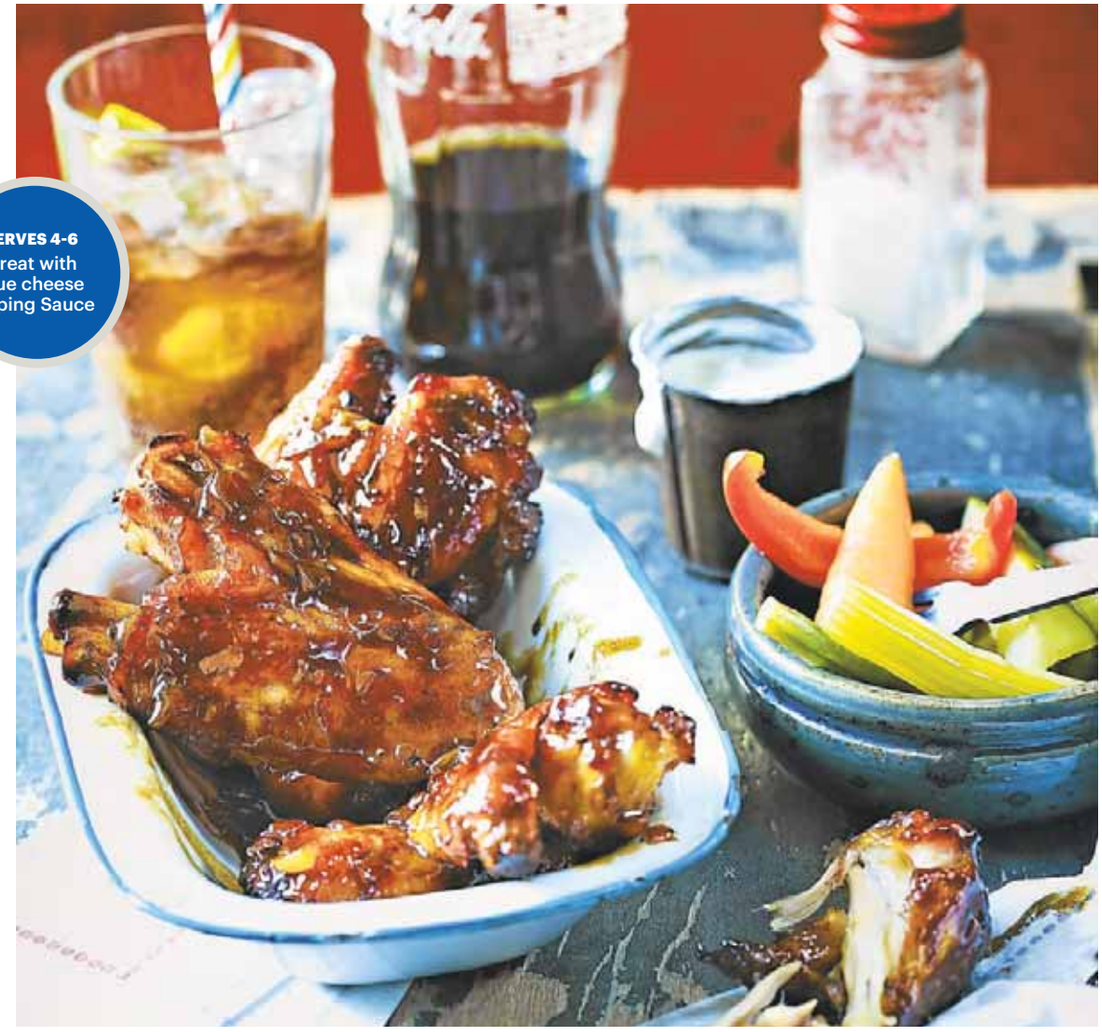
RECIPE EXCERPT CHICKEN WINGS: 70 UNBEATABLE RECIPES FOR FRIED, BAKED AND GRILLED WINGS, PLUS SIDES AND DRINKS

Chicken Wings: 70 unbeatable recipes for fried, baked and grilled wings, plus sides and drinks by Carol Hilker is the perfect go-to recipe book for game night, but with 70 recipes, it'll serve well in a variety of entertaining scenarios.

The book contains everything from classic glazes to lighter fare, taking the humble chicken wing to the next culinary level.

Here are two indulgences that go great together. Popular in the Southern states, Cola Wings are basted and covered with a cola-based BBQ-style sauce and go great with these waffles.

Southern-style Cola Wings



SERVES 4-6
Great with blue cheese dipping Sauce

- 4 lbs. chicken wings, halved at the joints, tips removed
- 2 cups brown sugar (light or dark)
- 2 cans of cola or root beer
- 3 onions, chopped
- 2 shallots, finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 4 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- pinch of salt
- 2 tsp cornflour/ cornstarch

Preheat the oven to 180 C

In a medium bowl, combine the brown sugar, cola or root beer, onions, shallots, garlic, soy sauce, pepper and salt.

Place the wings in a large, deep casserole or roasting dish. Pour over the cola mixture. Bake for 1 1/2 – 2 hours or until the juices run clear when the thickest part is pierced to the bone. Turn the wings occasionally during cooking, to ensure they do not burn or brown too much.

Remove the wings from the dish and set aside.

Pour the soda mixture into a small saucepan and heat. Place the cornflour in a small bowl, add some of the warm sauce, and mix to form a loose paste. Pour this back into the pan with the remaining sauce and cook over a low-medium heat until the sauce has thickened to the desired consistency. Toss the wings in the sauce and serve with Blue Cheese Dipping Sauce.

MAKES FOUR

Fluffy Buttermilk Waffles

These waffles are fluffy due to their buttermilk base and are fantastic served with chicken or slathered with maple syrup for breakfast (or for dessert!). As a variation, you can stir grated Cheddar cheese into the batter just before cooking.

- 1 3/4 cups plain/ all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda/ bicarbonate of soda
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- Extra-large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups buttermilk, at room temperature
- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted and cooled

Heat up the waffle iron according to the manufacturer's instructions.

In a large batter bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda/ bicarbonate of soda, sugar and salt, stirring well to combine the ingredients. Create a depression in the centre of the dry ingredients.

Beat the eggs in a large measuring cup or medium bowl until frothy and well combined. Add the vanilla extract, buttermilk and cooled butter. Beat until well combined.

Pour the buttermilk mixture into the dry ingredients' depression and stir rapidly with a wooden spoon until well combined. There will be an immediate chemical reaction between the buttermilk and the dry ingredients, creating a thick, rich batter honeycombed with air bubbles.

Using the wooden spoon, push one quarter of the batter onto your waffle-iron plates and bake according to the waffle iron instructions or until the steam stops rising from the waffle iron.

CHICKEN WINGS BY CAROL HILKER,PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOBY SCOTT, IS PUBLISHED BY RYLAND, PETERS & SMALL. $29.95

MUSIC VIDEOS

Adele trumps Swift in YouTube views

Take that, Taylor Swift. In one fell swoop, Adele has reasserted her pop music dominance, with Hello, her first video in years, quickly besting Swift's Bad Blood for the most views in 24 hours.

While Bad Blood earned an impressive 20.1 million views in its first full day on YouTube, the star-studded track was no match for Adele's sepia-toned tale of regret, which racked up 27.7 million. Yikes.

NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

GOSSIP BRIEFS

Just one Indiana Jones

Bad news for Chris Pratt, Bradley Cooper or any other brown-haired actor. If there are to be any more movies featuring Indiana Jones, they will — for the time being, at least — star Harrison Ford. "There are a lot of rumors," producer Frank Marshall told Total Film, but he insists they are "not doing the Bond thing where we're going to call somebody else Indiana Jones." Now can you tell Disney they should do the same with Han Solo?

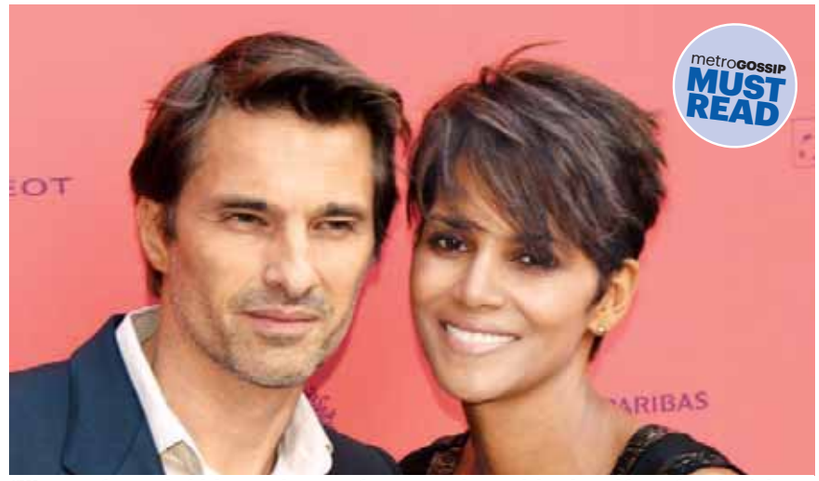
NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

Halle Berry and actor Olivier Martinez divorce

BREAK UP

The two celebs are 'just very, very different people': Source

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



"We move forward with love and respect for one another and the shared focus for what is best for our son," said Halle Barry and Olivier Martinez in a joint statement. GETTY IMAGES

Well, that's too bad. Halle Berry and French hubby Olivier Martinez are officially getting a divorce, according to TMZ.

"It is with a heavy heart that we have come to the decision to divorce," the couple said in a joint statement.

"We move forward with love and respect for one another and the shared focus for what is best for our son. We wish each other nothing but happiness in life, and we hope that you respect our and most importantly our children's privacy as we go through this difficult period."

Don't worry about any potential money squabbles, though, as the couple totes had a pre-nup.

So what was it that sent the two-year marriage over the edge? "They have a personality difference," a source says diplomatically. "They're just very, very different people. He's a very macho guy, and things just didn't jive."

Speaking of, there was that whole incident at LAX recently where Martinez used their kid's car seat as a battering ram against a photographer, which resulted in a lawsuit last week.

That suit, the source explains, prompted a fight that turned out to be the breaking point for the marriage.

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metro DRIVE

Your essential daily news

Electric cars will be the norm by 2026, says leading futurologist Ian Pearson

Scion scores with iM model

REVIEW

Youth-targeted Scion is not the most powerful but affordable

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada

If you miss your Toyota Matrix, Scion has a car for you. As Toyota's entry-level and youth-oriented brand, Scion's past offerings have primarily been offbeat and inexpensive, but they could also feel cheap and tinny.

Now there's the iM, a hatchback that's priced like a Scion but feels more upscale than what you pay for it. In this case, it's $21,165 with a six-speed manual, or $21,990 with an automatic continuously variable transmission (CVT). As per Scion's pricing structure, it comes in a single trim line, although you can add a few dealer accessories such as a premium sound system or navigation.

The engine is a 1.8-litre four-cylinder that isn't the most powerful in the segment, and you will have to plan your passing manoeuvres, since it's slow to respond when you hit the pedal hard. Still, it builds its speed smoothly under normal driving, feels substantial, and is stable at highway speeds. It includes hill start assist, which holds the brakes for a couple of seconds on an incline, a great feature for those who are relatively new to a manual transmission (and even for those who have been driving one for a while).

The list of standard features includes a backup camera, dual-zone automatic climate control, eight airbags, cruise control, touchscreen stereo, and a 60/40 rear seat that folds flat for more cargo space.

Oddly, though, while you do get power-folding mirrors, there are no heated seats, a major omission for a car that needs to get through a Canadian winter. Scion says it may eventually offer them as a dealer-installed option.

The interior is nicely finished and the cabin is roomy, with front seats that were more supportive than I expected, and good rear legroom for the car's size.

The ride is smooth, the car handles well, and it's very quiet, thanks in part to an acoustic windshield. If you liked your Toyota Matrix — or your Pontiac Vibe, the GM version of it — then this might be the replacement you've been looking for.

> **There are no heated seats, a major omission for a car that needs to get through a Canadian winter.**

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 SCION IM

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact hatchback
Engine (hp/torque). 1.8-litre four-cylinder (137/126)
Transmissions. 6-speed manual or CVT
Price. $21,165 (manual); $21,990 (CVT)

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

COOL FEATURES

- Four-wheel disc brakes
- Rearview camera
- Cargo cover
- USB port and Bluetooth connectivity
- Driver's knee and passenger seat airbags
- Heated mirrors with integrated turn signals
- Keyless entry

POINTS

- The iM was named the Best Budget Car by the Women's World Car of the Year (disclosure: I'm a judge).
- The iM's price is higher than its competitors' base price, but it includes items that are extra-charge on others.
- Toyota expects that by next year, the iM will make up 56 per cent of all Scion sales.

MARKET POSITION

Scion hasn't been a huge hit so far in Canada, and the company is moving it ahead by trimming slow-selling models, adding 50 new dealers, and rebranding it as "Scion by Toyota."

THE COMPETITION

Honda Fit
Base price: $14,730

Hyundai Elantra GT
Base price: $18,549

Ford Fiesta
Base price: $15,399

SAFETY

Hands-free systems still a distraction: Study

According to new data from the American Automobile Association, even in-car systems that use voice commands so that a driver can keep two hands on the wheel and two eyes on the road could cause a 27-second distraction after use.

Hands-free isn't always distraction-free. In fact, depending on the smartphone or in-car infotainment system, and the nature of the voice command, the AAA claims that a car could have covered the length of three football fields before the driver's focus is fully on the road again.

"The lasting effects of mental distraction pose a hidden and pervasive danger that would likely come as a surprise to most drivers," said Peter Kissinger, president and CEO of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. "The results indicate that motorists could miss stop signs, pedestrians and other vehicles while the mind is readjusting to the task of driving."

The AAA tested the hands-free systems available in 10 new cars on sale in the U.S. and also examined the effectiveness of Siri Eyes Free on the iPhone, the Cortana assistant on Microsoft's handsets and the Google Now app on an Android phone.

The systems were used for controlling the stereo, making a call or dictating a text message, and though some performed better than others, all systems tested increased mental distraction to "potentially unsafe" levels.

Using a five-point scale to rate distraction levels where 1 is equivalent to listening to the radio while driving and category 5 is trying to solve a scientific problem designed specifically to overload a person's mind while driving and cause distraction, the best performing in-car system registered 2.4 — that equates to being mentally impaired for 15 seconds. The worst-performing registered 4.6 — a 27-second impairment. As for smartphones, Google Now achieved a category 3.3 distraction, Apple Siri scored 3.7 and Microsoft Cortana 4.1.

"Drivers should use caution while using voice-activated systems, even at seemingly safe moments when there is a lull in traffic or the car is stopped at an intersection," said Mosher. AFP

A driving and texting simulator in New York City aims to show the consequences of distracted driving. But new data suggests even hands-free isn't always distraction-free. GETTY IMAGES FILE

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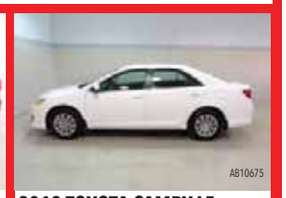
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S15220A

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VK1073

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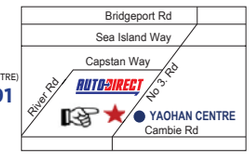

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The Jaguar C-X75, seen above with actress Naomie Harris, has a pivotal role in the new 007 film Spectre, which opens next Friday in Canada. JAGUAR

Bond movies still gunnin' it in style

AUTOPILOT

Her Majesty's Secret Service always good for cool rides and smash-ups

Mike Goetz
For Metro Canada

The Aston-Martin and Bond (in this case played by Pierce Brosnan) is an iconic combination. ASTON MARTIN

The new James Bond flick, Spectre, gets released next week in Canada and — spoiler alert — there is a car chase at some point.

But I guess a James Bond film without a car chase is like a Harry Potter film without pointy hats, or a Nicholas Cage film without over-acting.

The big car chase and resultant smash-up takes place on the streets of Rome and Vatican City and cost a reported $48 million, more than 10 per cent of the film's $403-million overall budget. So it's probably a pretty good car chase and smash-up.

Bond's ride is an Aston Martin DB10. You can't walk into an Aston Martin dealership and drive away with a DB10. Aston Martin unveiled a concept car earlier this year called DB10, to show the styling direction for the next generation of Aston Martins, particularly the coming successor to the current DB9 production car. Analysts speculate the DB9 successor will be called a DB11, making the DB10 pretty much a Bond thing.

Aston Martin made 10 examples for the film, obviously specially modified for all the movie hijinks. As part of a new agreement between Mercedes-Benz and Aston Martin, the DB11 is expected to use versions of the German automaker's powertrains, but the Bond DB10s are equipped with the English automaker's current V8 and six-speed manual transmission.

In the trailer we see Bond, played again by Daniel Craig, meeting his government-issue Aston Martin DB10 for the first time. He gets the walk-around from Q, played by Ben Whishaw, who remarks how the Aston can rip from 0-60 mph in 3.2 seconds, and how it has "a few little tricks up her sleeve."

We'll have to wait for the movie to see those tricks, but I'm guessing they're a grade up from the tricks found on the original Bond Aston Martin, that famous DB5 that Sean Connery's Bond received from Q in 1964's Goldfinger. That DB5 was famously fitted with injector seat, machines guns, tire slashers, rotating licence plate, bulletproof glass and what-not, and became the archetypical super-agent screen car.

In the new movie's big chase scene, Mr. Hinx, a high-ranking SPECTRE member and super-assassin, pursues Bond with an equally rare and exciting beast — a Jaguar C-X75.

The Jaguar C-X75 is also strictly a concept car, debuting with four electric motors, and two micro-turbine engines exclusively for charging the battery pack. While the Hinx C-X75 movie car stays faithful to the concept's styling, underneath is a racecar chassis and Jaguar's super-charged 5.0-litre V8.

While I'm generally indifferent to product placement in movies, I can really get behind the product placement that you see with all the vehicles in Bond movies. Especially when you get the double-whammy of seeing cool and exclusive vehicles in high action, and then also get to see some of them get blown up or destroyed in spectacular and creative ways. What's better than that?

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Ford engineers turn it up to 11

Ford has made a patent filing for an 11-speed automatic transmission, in three variations with differing combinations of gears, clutches and brakes. The company had already confirmed plans to launch an all-new 10-speed transmission in its aluminum-bodied F-150 pickup truck in 2016.

Along with direct fuel injection, lightweight construction and downsized engines fitted with turbocharging, advanced transmissions are helping automakers meet ever-tightening corporate average fuel economy standards without resorting to electric and hybrid powertrains. To date, Ford's 10-speed automatic has only been confirmed for the 2017 F-150 Raptor high-performance truck (pictured), but should eventually spread across the rest of the F-150 truck lineup.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

SURVEY

Most EV drivers say they'll be lifers

A new survey by Ford suggests that nine out of 10 electric-car drivers will not go back to cars with internal-combustion engines.

Ford polled 10,000 drivers of battery-electric and plug-in hybrids. Ninety-two per cent of battery-electric drivers and 94 per cent of plug-in hybrid drivers plan to buy another electrified car as their next vehicle.

Stephanie Janczak, Ford's manager of electric-vehicle infrastructure and technology, told alternate-energy news website CleanTechnica that most current drivers of all-electric cars said they would stay electric, while plug-in hybrid owners were more inclined to consider switching to an all-electric.

The driving experience and an appreciation of clean technology were cited as the main reasons for staying electric, she said.

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3 THINGS AT THE 2016 TOKYO MOTOR SHOW

Japan's biggest single automotive showcase may only come around once every two years but no other international motor show promises the same mix of the outlandish and outright ingenious. AFP

1 A sporting chance of production

Mazda is bringing a sports coupé concept to this year's show and there's a good chance the car could lead to a new RX8 production vehicle, complete with a rotary engine. All that Mazda will say is that the design references the company's great sports cars of the past while also looking to the future.

Toyota is being far less coy about its S-FR concept. A lightweight 2+2 coupe with rear-wheel drive and potentially excellent handling, it is expected to challenge the Mazda Miata MX5 in terms of price and performance.

Yamaha, a company famed for two-wheelers, is also looking to get in on the lightweight sportscar action with the unveiling of a mid-engine concept designed by Gordon Murray. Next to nothing is known about the car, but if the man responsible for the McLaren F1 is involved, expect something impressive.

Sports car concepts, like the Toyota S-FR, are going to be big at this year's show. TOYOTA

2 Complete autonomy

One of the most intriguing cars at this year's show will be Nissan's Teatro for Dayz concept, which attempts to understand what the next generation of road users will want from a car. A complete blank canvas, it jettisons all current design motifs so that the owner can instead project his or her own personality on it, inside and out.

The Mitsubishi eX Concept is much more conventional by comparison but will showcase the company's latest innovations in battery technology and will debut an augmented reality windshield that brings autonomous and connected car features to drivers without the associated distractions.

Teatro for Dayz concept car: A car designed for the next generation of drivers. NISSAN

The Mitsubishi eX concept sports an augmented reality windshield and an electric motor. MITSUBISHI

3 The lap of luxury

Suzuki and Lexus will be showcasing luxury, as in the Suzuki Air Triser concept. SUZUKI

This year's show coincides with Lexus's 25th anniversary and the premium marque is marking the occasion with a show car that represents "progressive luxury." It will also give the clearest sign of what the next-generation LS — the company's flagship executive sedan — will be offering in order to compete with the Mercedes S Class and BMW 7 Series.

Suzuki will be showing something called the Air Triser, which is an exercise in packaging as well as comfort, and brings an executive lounge feeling to the interior of a compact MPV.

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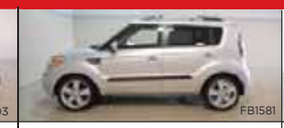

FB1581

2011 KIA SOUL 2.0L 4U

Great on gas, A/C, power windows, power mirrors, power moonroof, wireless phone connectivity, heated front seats, split folding rear seats, power and heated door mirrors.

SALE PRICE: $11,495

KK15448A

2005 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 SE

Tilt and telescoping steering wheel, retained accessory power, remote trunk release, engine immobilizer, AM/FM radio, 16" wheels, front and rear cup holders and door pockets.

SALE PRICE: $5,995

FB1559

2014 KIA FORTE5 2.0L EX

Only 13,216 kms! heated front seats, rear cooling vent, tilt and telescoping steering wheel, front and rear splash guards, impact-sensing door unlock, power driver seat, AUX/USB, Bluetooth.

SALE PRICE: $16,895

2013 KIA RIO EX+

Only 25,958 kms! stylish inside and out, high quality interior materials, long warranty, strong acceleration, power and heated mirrors, AUX/USB, Bluetooth, A/C,.

SALE PRICE: $15,480

2013 KIA SOUL 2.0L 4U

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2012 KIA SOUL 2.0L 4U

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2012 DODGE AVENGER SXT

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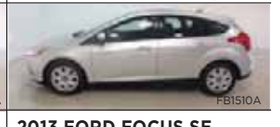
SALE PRICE: $15,995



2013 FORD FOCUS SE

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SALE PRICE: $15,995

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2014 KIA OPTIMA LX

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2012 KIA FORTE 2.4L SX

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A woman, two men and a truck

KEY TO SUCCESS

Connecting with customers and relying on their referrals

Vawn Himmelsbach

Kari Campbell, sitting in one of the company's trucks, runs the Oshawa franchise. CONTRIBUTED

Two Men and a Truck brings to mind … well, men and trucks. Yet the professional moving company was founded by a woman and is run by a woman.

Mary Ellen Sheets started the business with her two sons (hence, the name), and her daughter Melanie Bergeron is chair of the board. And there are also female franchisees.

Being a woman in an industry dominated by men, however, isn't the biggest challenge for female franchisee Kari Campbell, who runs the Oshawa franchise and in November 2013 opened a satellite office in Peterborough.

A greater challenge has been overcoming the public's perception of moving companies — everyone has heard "horror stories" of moves gone terribly wrong, of people being scammed or precious items being damaged or vanishing into thin air.

Moving, after all, is much more than the physical transport of goods from one location to another — it's about handling people's memories.

In that sense, being a woman has been an asset in a business often associated with tough, burly men. "I'm going to understand that china cabinet is 100 years old and belonged to her grandmother," said Campbell. "Being a woman on that end is a total advantage … it puts them at ease."

Campbell started working with Two Men and a Truck as a customer service rep when a friend opened the Oshawa franchise. Two years later, in 2009, she was offered the chance to become partner. She took a few days to think about it and then jumped onboard. Already familiar with the brand and its core values, she was impressed with the help she received from head office.

But Campbell knew that owning a franchise wasn't a guarantor of success. "I don't think it's just a given, especially a moving company because people have such a negative outlook on it," she says. "You have to prove yourself as an individual franchise."

She's done this by getting involved with the local Chamber of Commerce, attending events and home shows, meeting with real estate agents and even doing charity work. It has also meant getting out to as many jobs as possible to meet customers — though she can't do that every single time.

Of course, the name of the company is Two Men and a Truck, so occasionally customers want to know where the "man" is, "which is very discouraging because I have been in the industry a long time and I know my job inside and out," she says. "But for most people it doesn't matter."

Campbell knows the job so well because she's gone out with her movers — literally doing the heavy lifting — to "see what my guys are going through." She currently has 28 employees, all of whom are men except for her customer service rep and accountant.

Two Men and a Truck has only been in Canada for just over 10 years (where there are 21 franchises), and is now expanding to Vancouver, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Saint John and Moncton.

Crossing borders with Second Cup

The sun has only just come up in Beirut, but already the honking has started. It would be easy to mistake the constant bleating as impatience, but the horns are simply placing a coffee order.

Drivers pull up near a corner in Beirut's Ein al-Mreisseh neighbourhood and idle in the street near a store that sells Arabic coffee for $.60 a cup. Along the sidewalk, dozens of men sit in multicolored plastic chairs sipping the Arab cappuccino, a mixture of heavy espresso, powdered sweetener, and hot chocolate.

This is the pure coffee culture of the Middle East, with the neighbourhood coffee shops the central meeting place for a morning chat. But beyond the busy streets in some of the once-leafy neighbourhoods around the American University or in the strings of hotels along the Corniche, the international brands dominate the sidewalks: here a Starbucks, there a Gloria Jean's, and over there — keeping pace — Canada's own Second Cup.

There are three Second Cup locations in Beirut, and over 100 in the Middle East and North Africa. Second Cup International opened its 130th franchise outside of Canada, in Manchester, U.K., late in 2014. The first overseas location popped up in Dubai's gigantic Mall of the Emirates in 2003 and the company's international growth has continued unabated since. It has franchise locations across the Emirates and in some unusual, unstable places: Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Egypt. There are as more Second Cup locations in Cairo (five) than in the entire United States (four).

There are over 100 locations in the Middle East and North Africa. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jim Ragas, the president of Second Cup International, explains the successful growth as part of an international desire for foreign brands and the consistent delivery of that brand's promises.

"Throughout the Middle East and in other places, people are looking for international brands, and when they get them in their region they're really happy," he explains. "But there's a huge amount of competition. And so the focus has to be on executing great service and having a great product. I think we do both."

Second Cup International is an entirely separate entity ("apart from sharing a name and some recipes," jokes Ragan) from Second Cup, the company that runs the Canadian franchises. The franchise model is different, with a heavier investment required from prospective franchisees, who must have a net worth of $3-million and $1.5-million in liquid assets. In Canada, a franchisee only needs to have $120,000 in assets and $350,000 in net worth. Additionally, international franchise partners take on the responsibility of managing the brand throughout a region: there's one owner in Lebanon, one in Syria, one in Azerbaijan, and so on. The head office approves new locations, but only visits the site after the café has been built and its staff trained.

That leaves the international cafes with a decidedly different feeling than a Canadian location.

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metro SPORTS

Ben Roethlisberger is set to return to the Steelers after missing four games with a sprained knee and bruised leg

MLS PLAYOFFS

Robinson keen to grab big chance

If the phrase "Why not Vancouver?" catches on, you can point to Carl Robinson as the person responsible for getting it started.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Robinson, the Vancouver Whitecaps' head coach, stayed on point about how his club deserved to finish where it did in the standings — second in the Western Conference, guaranteeing a home playoff date for the first time in the club's Major League Soccer existence — following a solid win Sunday.

Carl Robinson GETTY IMAGES

The Whitecaps and their supporters still don't know who they're facing in the semifinal, which is a two-leg, home-and-home battle that begins Nov. 1, with the Vancouver side on the road, and ends at BC Place Stadium on Nov. 8.

> **As I said, sometimes in life you get an opportunity to grab it. Why not? Why not Vancouver?**
> Caps' coach Carl Robinson

"Now, I said, it's the fun bit. Anything we do, I look at it as a bonus. We get a playoff game at home but let's not just go in there and not fight and not scrap and not give it our everything," Robinson told reporters.

"As I said, sometimes in life you get an opportunity to grab it. Why not? Why not Vancouver?" The Whitecaps received a bye into the conference semifinals, which provides them with a few extra days of rest and training.

Robinson didn't rule out the possibility of midfielder Pedro Morales (hamstring) being ready to play at least some minutes this weekend.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Canucks spoil Habs' party

NHL

Rookie McCann hits pair to rob Montreal of place in history

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

On a night when the visiting Montreal Canadiens were bidding to once again make NHL history, 19-year-old rookie forward Jared McCann was making his case to stay with the Vancouver Canucks.

Playing in his seventh game, McCann made the most of limited ice time in the opening period by scoring twice to help the Canucks build a three-goal lead over the Habs, who entered Tuesday's game needing one more win to make it 10 consecutive victories to begin a season, tying the NHL record held by the 1993-94 Toronto Maple Leafs and 2006-07 Buffalo Sabres.

McCann and the Canucks spoiled the party, defeating the Habs 5-1 and denying a boisterous gathering of Canadiens' fans at Rogers Arena from seeing their team go further into the record books.

Playing on a line with Derek Dorsett and former Hab Brandon Prust, McCann opened the scoring just 2:30 into the game.

He pounced on a loose puck in the Montreal crease, tapping it into a wide open net after Canadiens' goalie Carey Price, so good to begin this season, couldn't hold on after he went for the windmill glove save on a Prust slap shot off the wing.

McCann increased Vancouver's lead to three goals, as he kicked the puck from his skate to his stick and beat Price with a shot to the glove side off an offensive zone faceoff late in the opening period, in which McCann saw a team-low 3:15 of ice time. That goal also gave McCann the team lead in that department with four in seven games. A decision on his immediate future still looms as he approaches nine games played.

Vancouver Canucks' Alexander Edler, right, of Sweden, checks Montreal Canadiens' Lars Eller, of Denmark, during the first period. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TUESDAY in Vancouver

5	1
CANUCKS	CANADIENS

The Canucks have two options: Send McCann back to junior at or before the nine-games played mark, or play him beyond that and burn a year off his entry-level contract. Luca Sbisa's goal — originally credited to Bo Horvat but changed during the intermission — in the first period counted as the winner for Vancouver. Ryan Miller continued his strong start to the season, making 25 saves for the victory.

Prust left the game late in the second period and did not return after falling awkwardly along the boards.

WHL

Giants, Hitmen complete massive five-player trade

Vancouver Giants' general manager Scott Bonner
CAM TUCKER/METRO

The Vancouver Giants dealt forward and former interim captain Jackson Houck to the Calgary Hitmen as part of a five-player trade announced Tuesday morning.

Going to Calgary along with Houck is Jakob Stukel, a 1997-born forward originally from Surrey, and goalie Cody Porter, also born in 1997. The Giants also sent a conditional third-round pick in the 2017 bantam draft to the Hitmen.

In exchange, the Giants picked up a pair of 1996-born players in defenceman Ben Thomas, a fourth-round pick of the Tampa Bay Lightning in the 2014 NHL Draft, and forward Chase Lang, a sixth-round pick of the Minnesota Wild that same year.

> **We've added a couple of NHL drafted players to our roster.**
> Giants GM Scott Bonner

"In acquiring Ben and Chase, we've added a couple of NHL drafted players to our roster," said Giants general manager Scott Bonner in a statement.

In 63 games with the Hitmen last season, Lang scored 25 goals and 56 points. He had two goals and seven points in 14 games for Calgary this season prior to the trade.

Thomas has posted identical offensive numbers in each of his past two seasons with Calgary. He scored seven goals and 31 points in 72 games in 2013-14 and then recorded the exact same totals in 60 games last season. CAM TUCKER/METRO

B.C. Lions' quarterback Jonathon Jennings passes against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats during the second half of a game in Vancouver, B.C., last Friday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jennings: Lions life a 'roller-coaster'

CFL

B.C. Lions' first-year QB no rookie, say teammates

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

It was quite the weekend for B.C. Lions quarterback Jonathon Jennings.

On Friday, he helped lead the Leos to victory over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in what was arguably the best all-around performance for B.C. this season. It came at a time when they needed it the most, with the race for the final playoff spot in the West Division meandering toward a conclusion.

The very next day, less than 24 hours after the triumphant result at BC Place Stadium, there was more reason to celebrate. The 23-year-old Jennings, born in Columbus, Ohio, proposed to his girlfriend. Photos of the happy couple, enjoying such a personal moment, were posted on the team's Facebook page.

While Jennings draws a line of separation between football and his personal life, he admitted, "It's been an exciting roller coaster."

On the football field, Jennings has now made five straight starts since Travis Lulay and John Beck were injured — Lulay has since returned to the active roster — and has given reason after reason to believe he very well could be the future of the team.

Humble is a word that has been used to describe Jennings. Mature beyond his years is a phrase head coach Jeff Tedford agreed with when discussing his quarterback.

And while things looked to be heading south in a real hurry for the Leos in the immediate aftermath of the Lulay injury, Jennings has taken the opportunity thrust upon him and provided a spark for the offence.

He may be young. He may be in his first year. But the term 'rookie' isn't necessarily how his teammates view Jennings, according to Tedford.

"We're way into this thing so I'm not sure they look at him as a rookie," said the coach.

"He's new in there. But he doesn't carry himself as a rookie.

"He's concise, he's clear — the clarity in the huddle, the command he has in the huddle. A rookie quarterback who doesn't really maybe have as much going for him as (Jennings) does may get in there and stammer and stutter, and not know what's going on … but he's so smooth and so clear and so prepared that he doesn't come across as a rookie."

NBA

Bulls squeak past Cavs in nail-biter game

Nikola Mirotic scored 19 points and Derrick Rose added 18 to lead the Chicago Bulls to a season-opening 97-95 victory over LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers with President Barack Obama watching on Tuesday night.

Pau Gasol blocked a potential tying layup by James in the closing seconds. Jimmy Butler then broke up an inbounds pass intended for James as time expired.

The president sat courtside for most of the game as his beloved Bulls knocked off the defending Eastern Conference champions and gave coach Fred Hoiberg a narrow win in his first game.

The Bulls, playing a more open offence with Hoiberg than they did under Tom Thibodeau, did not exactly light it up. But they came away with a promising win.

The Cavaliers got 19 points and seven assists from Mo Williams, filling in while Kyrie Irving recovers from a fractured left kneecap. Kevin Love added 18 points and eight rebounds.

The Cavaliers took an 83-82 lead on a floater by James with 5:32 left in the game.

Mirotic immediately converted a three-point play after getting fouled by Tristan Thompson on a baseline floater. That started an 11-2 run that put Chicago back on top 93-85 with 2:42 left.

But just when it looked as if the lead was safe, the Cavaliers came roaring back again.

Love nailed back-to-back 3-pointers to make it 97-95 with 33 seconds remaining. After a miss by Rose with 10 seconds remaining, a driving James got stuffed by Gasol.

The ball bounced out along the baseline, and Butler broke up the inbounds, preserving a tight victory for Chicago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WOMEN'S SOCCER

U.S. goal machine Wambach to retire

Abby Wambach, the leading career scorer — male or female — in international soccer, announced her retirement on Tuesday shortly after the U.S. national team celebrated its Women's World Cup victory at the White House.

Wambach, 35, said before the World Cup this past summer in Canada that she wanted to cap her 15-year career with the game's most prestigious championship. She got her wish. Wambach, who grew up in Rochester, New York, has appeared in 252 international matches with 184 goals.

> **"It's been an amazing, wonderful ride and I can't wait to see what the next chapter of my life brings."**
> Abby Wambach

She will play the final four matches of the national team's 10-game victory tour before stepping away from the team. Her final match will be Dec. 16 against China in New Orleans.

"After much deliberation and talking with my friends, family, teammates and our coaching staff, I've decided to finally bring my soccer career to an end," Wambach said in a statement. "While we still have more work to do for women's soccer, after bringing the World Cup back to the United States this summer, I'm feeling extremely optimistic about the future of our sport.

"It's been an amazing, wonderful ride and I can't wait to see what the next chapter of my life brings."

The United States defeated Japan 5-2 in the World Cup title game after a monthlong tournament that crisscrossed Canada. Carli Lloyd was named the tournament's MVP after scoring three goals in the span of 16 minutes in the final match.

Wambach appeared in four World Cups with the national team. She also has a pair of Olympic gold medals from the 2004 Games in Athens and the 2012 Games in London. She did not compete in the Beijing Games because of a broken leg.

She was the 2012 FIFA World Player of the Year.

Wambach has also made it her mission to grow the women's game, and to fight for equal rights for female athletes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abby Wambach
GETTY IMAGES

SOCCER IN BRIEF

Former political prisoner Sexwale eyes FIFA top job

Aiming to end FIFA's "nightmare," former prison inmate and presidential candidate Tokyo Sexwale will travel to Egypt on Tuesday to campaign for support from African soccer leaders.

Africa's 54 votes — the largest confederation in FIFA — is critical to the South African tycoon's chances of replacing Sepp Blatter as FIFA president. Sexwale, a former apartheid-era political prisoner alongside Nelson Mandela, will make a presentation to African soccer executives at their meeting in Cairo on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World Cup bids investigated for money laundering

Fraud investigators in Britain are looking for evidence of money laundering linked to the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bidding contests.

Serious Fraud Office director David Green told a British parliamentary hearing "new information has come to us quite recently."

He said "whether the money came through London is important."

However, Green said laws passed after the December 2010 vote give him no jurisdiction over FIFA for bribery offences.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Encarnacion goes under knife to repair hernia

Toronto Blue Jays slugger Edwin Encarnacion has undergone surgery to repair a sports hernia.

The team said in a news release that he is expected to recover in time for spring training.

Encarnacion helped form one of the most feared batting orders during the regular season, belting 39 homers and driving in 111 runs. Toronto advanced to the American League Championship Series but were dispatched in six games by Kansas City.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Volquez learns of father's death

WORLD SERIES

Royals pitcher goes about business after hearing news

The father of Royals pitcher Edinson Volquez died Tuesday in the Dominican Republic, shortly before his son took the mound to start Game 1 of the World Series against the New York Mets.

Two people familiar with the situation said that 63-year-old Danio Volquez died from heart failure. His son was informed of Volquez's passing on the way to the ballpark, where he was scheduled to make his World Series debut.

The people spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday night because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

The elder Volquez, a mechanic in the Dominican Republic, introduced his son to the game when he was about 10 years old. Edinson Volquez often returned home to visit his parents, and said not long ago that they were his biggest supporters while trying to make it in the big leagues.

The 11-year veteran appeared to warm up as if nothing was amiss on a misty evening in Kansas City, then marched stoically to the mound to start the game as the crowd roared.

His first pitch to Mets leadoff hitter Curtis Granderson went for a called strike, and the right-hander went on to retire the side in the first inning. He fanned Daniel Murphy, the hottest hitter this postseason, as the crowd inside Kauffman Stadium chanted, "Eddie! Eddie!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for the outcome of Game 1

Royals starting pitcher Edinson Volquez surrendered three earned runs in six innings on Tuesday. JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

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PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

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Prep time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 6 large boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 3/4 pound mini red, white and purple potatoes, halved or quartered if large
- 6-8 cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup bocconcini
- 8-10 basil leaves, roughly chopped

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
2. Rub the chicken thighs on both sides with olive oil and generously season with salt and pepper.
3. Heat large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken, cover and cook until it browns on one side, about 3 minutes. Turn the chicken; add the potatoes. Allow the chicken to cook another 3 minutes to brown then add the cherry tomatoes; transfer to oven and roast, uncovered, until chicken and potatoes are cooked, about 20 minutes.
4. Remove skillet from pan and toss in cheese and garnish with basil.

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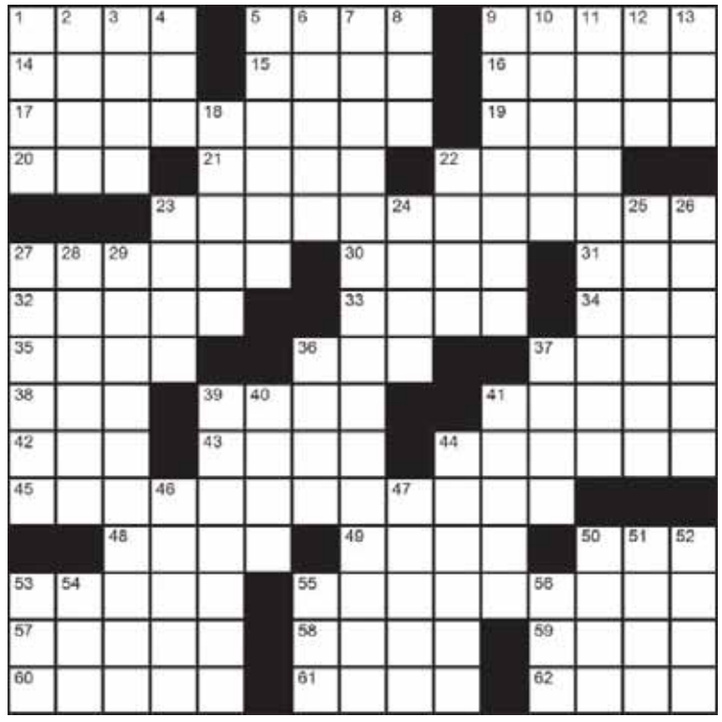
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Scoff
5. Damage
9. City in Iraq
14. Take apart
15. Rhyme scheme
16. Savoury gelatin
17. Tlaloc = Aztec _ _ _
19. Providence, _ Island
20. Mr. Stallone, to pals
21. Comes with it, for short
22. Long journey
23. Canadian made products by based-in-Prince-Edward-Island company Paderno: 2 wds.
27. A bit like Caesar or Ovid or Nero
30. Botanical leaf-to-stem angle
31. Honor vs Honour ...the difference is that the first spelling has _ _ in it
32. Energy company based in Halifax
33. Litter barks
34. What the person at #48-Across did
35. Animal docs
36. MTV hosts
37. Campus mil. program in The States
38. 'Carot' completer
39. Stead
41. Racecar driver Mr. Franchitti
42. _ de Janeiro
43. Fifty-fifty
44. "Love Me _" by Elvis Presley
45. Nature lover's activity: 2 wds.
48. "The gold goes to ...me!": 2 wds.
49. Tribe on the very first "Survivor"
50. Flight watchdog org. in The States
53. Computer's chomps?
55. Count Dracula's fang imprints: 2 wds.
57. English dramatist, George _ (Contemporary of William Shakespeare)
58. Peaty place
59. Garlands of Hawaii
60. Boat poles
61. Auberges
62. Dispatched

DOWN
1. Water holders
2. Organic compound
3. Country singer Mr. Arnold
4. Aussie hopper
5. Canadian cellist Ofra
6. Sternward
7. As per transportation, Justin Bieber's Ontario hometown of Stratford originally served as a what?: 2 wds.
8. Guy
9. Casks
10. "Angela's _" (1999)
11. Creative outlet allowing a poet to perform: 2 wds.
12. Empty
13. First-rate
18. Ms. Reid of "King of Kensington"
22. Stumble
23. "You Might Think" band, with The
24. Allies foe in WWII
25. Natalie's best friend on "The Facts of Life"
26. Calgary-based energy company
27. Rock guitarist's effect
28. 666 sequel, "Damien: _ _ _" (1978)
29. Crater forming masses from outer space
36. Depilatory brand
37. Called
39. Comedian Jerry, and surnamesakes
40. _ the Terrible
41. Casual material
44. Big cats
46. Brooded
47. "You Can Leave Your _ _ _" by Joe Cocker
50. Costless
51. Similar
52. Helper, for short
53. Music pace in 60 seconds [acronym]
54. Uh-huh, fancy-style
55. Dieter's stat.
56. Mr. Pacino's

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Don't get involved in a quarrel that is none of your business. You cannot resolve it and there is a strong chance the opposing parties will get together and end up taking it out on you.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Why do you care so much what other people say about you? It's not like you to seek approval but you are craving the support of partners and colleagues at the moment. Just be careful you don't pay too much for it.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will have to admit that you have been aiming too high. No matter, it's not the end of the world. Even Geminis get it wrong sometimes.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Your confidence is high but don't let that lull you into a false sense of security. It would be nice to believe that the world consists only of generous, compassionate people but you know it's not true. Watch your back.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You are finding it hard to hide your anxieties, but why would you want to when there are people you can turn to for advice and support? You don't have to face each and every situation alone.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't be taken in by someone's tale of woe. Deep down you know it is a load of rubbish. Give advice if it is asked for but keep your money.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your number one aim is to make money. Over the next two or three days you will get the chance to earn some big bucks but you have got to stay focused.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may be right to be angry with someone who has let you down but don't make a big issue of it. Let them know you are not amused, then let it go. Whatever you lost you will soon find something better to replace it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your confidence may be low but this is a passing phase, so don't get despondent. If you don't feel like being social, that's OK — find a quiet place you can be alone with your thoughts.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You have a mind of your own and if you are smart you will use it today. If you follow the crowd you could end up some place you did not want to go.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The Sun in Scorpio at this time of year can either make or break your reputation, depending on how focused and hard-working you choose to be. There will be time for fun and games later — get serious for now.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Anything that sounds too good to be true is most likely a trick to part you from your hard-earned cash. You are too intelligent to fall for it, but watch out for friends and loved ones too.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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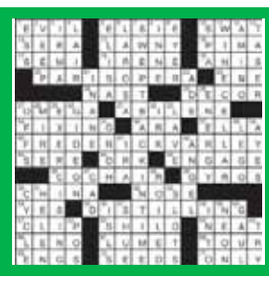

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